

1999 Crop Production

Corn

Wisconsin farmers planted 3.60 million acres, down 100,000 acres from 1998. Corn acres harvested for grain at 2.85 million acres were down 3 percent from last year. The Wisconsin corn crop averaged at 143 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the 1998 yield. This year's yield, the highest on record, surpassed the 1994 corn yield of 141 bushels per acre. Production totaled at 408 million bushels, up 1 percent from last year's 404 million bushels.

Nationally, corn for grain production was estimated at 9.44 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop, and down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast. The 1999 production ranks as the fourth highest production on record behind the 1994, 1998, and 1992 crop years. The U. S. yield of 133.8 bushels per acre, was down 0.6 bushel from last year. Acres harvested for grain, at 70.5 million acres, were down by 3 percent from 1998. For most states, abandoned acres in 1999 were at or below normal levels.

Acres of corn harvested for silage in Wisconsin totaled 730,000 acres in 1999, unchanged from last year. The average silage yield was 16.5 tons per acre, up 0.5 tons from 1998. Silage production in 1999 was 12.0 million tons, up 3 percent from the prior year.

Soybeans

Wisconsin soybean acreage, 1.30 million harvested acres, exceeded the 1998 record by 18 percent. The yield, at 46 bushels per acre, fell 1 bushel from last year's record yield for Wisconsin. Soybean production reached an all-time high 59.8 million bushels for 1999.

United States soybean production in 1999 totaled 2.64 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast, 4 percent below 1998, and the third highest production. The average yield per acre in 1999 was estimated at 36.5 bushels, 0.2 bushel below the November 1 forecast, and 2.4 bushels below the 1998 yield. Harvested area totaled a record 72.5 million acres, 3 percent above 1998.

Winter Wheat Seedings

Wisconsin farmers seeded 140,000 acres of winter wheat, up 15,000 acres from the fall of 1998. U.S. winter wheat seeded area is expected to total 42.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 1999. This is the smallest area since 1972.

Alfalfa

Acres cut in Wisconsin for dry alfalfa hay at 2.1 million, increased 11 percent from last year. Due to early spring and late fall, alfalfa hay yield increased 11 percent and production increased 22 percent from 1998. Production totaled 6.51 million tons, while yields averaged 3.10 tons per acre.

Alfalfa Seedings

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures were seeded on 600,000 acres in Wisconsin during 1999, unchanged from last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings. Nationally, 3.44 million acres were seeded, compared to 3.55 million acres the previous year.

Tobacco

Wisconsin's tobacco acreage decreased 36 percent to 1,320 acres. This was due mainly to the decrease in allotted acres. Total forecasted production for Wisconsin decreased 34 percent to 2.79 million pounds. Northern tobacco (Type 55) yielded 1,900 pounds per acre, up 155 pounds per acre from 1998. Southern tobacco (Type 54) yields increased by 20 pounds per acre.

U.S. tobacco production totaled 1.28 billion pounds, 14 percent below 1998. Growers harvested 644,250 acres in 1999, down 10 percent from last year. Yield per acre averaged 1,980 pounds, down 82 pounds from 1998.

Mint

Wisconsin peppermint production during 1999 in Wisconsin was an estimated 347,000 pounds of oil, 13 percent lower than distillation a year earlier, but 11 percent above two years ago. Peppermint harvested acreage decreased 4 percent from 1998. Producer yields averaged 45 pounds per acre. Spearmint output at 191,000 pounds during 1999 was down 20 percent from 1998. Acres harvested at 4,900 were down 400 acres from a year earlier but 100 acres above 1997. Oil production per acre averaged 39 pounds compared with 45 pounds in 1998.

U.S. peppermint oil production in 1999 is estimated at 7.54 million pounds, down 23 percent from 1998. Harvested acres are estimated at 106,300, down 14 percent from 1998 and the lowest since 1993. The average 1999 yield was 71 pounds of oil per acre, down 7 pounds from 1998 and the lowest since 1995. U.S. production of spearmint oil in 1999 is estimated at 2.45 million pounds, down 18 percent from 1998. Area for harvest stood at 24,400 acres, compared with 27,400 acres in 1998. The average yield was 101 pounds of oil per acre, the second highest on record, compared with the record high 109 pounds of oil per acre for 1998.

Hay Stocks

On December 1, hay stocks were 16 percent higher than a year earlier at 5.90 million tons. In 1999, an extended pasture season due to an early spring and late fall, combined with a rise in hay production, increased hay stocks. Nationally, stocks of all hay on farms December 1, 1999 totaled 109 million tons, 3 percent below the stocks on farms December 1, 1998. Stock decreases occurred in 29 of the forty-eight contiguous States. Dry weather conditions in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern States played a major role in stock decreases. California, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee had stocks down by 15 percent or more. Oklahoma and Texas had the largest stock increases, up 38 and 20 percent respectively, from last December.

Apple Yield Remains Unchanged

Statewide, apple growers reported an average yield of 11,900 pounds per acre for the 1999 crop, unchanged from 1998. Production in Wisconsin totaled 77.4 million pounds, up 1.3 million pounds from the previous year. Levels of apple scab were present in many areas of the state. One grower noted that half of his crop was not picked due to a labor shortage. Growers commented on the market being less than desirable; many consumers purchased apples at grocery stores rather than visiting orchards. The average price received by farmers averaged 29 cents per pound, a penny more than in 1998, and much higher than the U.S. average of 16 cents per pound. The 1999 apple crop in Wisconsin was valued at 16.3 million dollars.

Cranberries – Whopping Crop

Wisconsin growers achieved record yields in 1999, well above last year's previous high. The average yield in Wisconsin was 229 barrels per acre, compared to 174 barrels per acre in 1998. Harvested acreage in Wisconsin increased slightly to 14,600 acres. Wisconsin topped the U.S. in cranberries by producing 3.34 million barrels in 1999, up 32 percent from 1998. In Wisconsin, there were very few reports of disease, insect, deer, hail or other weather problems. U.S. production totaled 6.39 million barrels, an increase of 17 percent. Wisconsin growers produced 52 percent of the national total.

Tart Cherries – Yield and Market Down

Market demand remains stagnant for the Wisconsin cherry industry. Grower numbers continued to decline. Yields were much lower than last year's crop. Total cherry production, statewide, fell 5.8 million pounds from 1998 to 10.0 million pounds. Wisconsin tart cherry processors recorded utilized production at 8.5 million pounds, compared to 15.3 million pounds a year ago. Our neighboring state, Michigan, had a total production of 185 million pounds, 72 percent of the U.S. total, whereas Wisconsin accounted for 4 percent.

Strawberries – Production Way Down

Strawberry production in Wisconsin declined 21 percent from 1998 to 48,000 cwt. Some growers filed for crop insurance assistance due to too much heat and rain last year, which caused some areas of the state to have yielded much lower than in 1998. A few growers noted a shortage of labor also. Harvested acreage at 1,100 acres was unchanged from 1998; however, the average yield decreased from 55 to 44 cwt. per acre. Wisconsin and New York strawberries showed the highest price, \$106.00 per cwt., in the U.S. The total value of Wisconsin's 1999 fresh market and processed strawberry crop was \$5.09 million.

CROP SUMMARY, 1997-99

Crop	Harvested acres (thousands)			Unit	Yield per acre			Production (thousands)			Pro- duction % change 99/98
	1997	1998	1999		1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	
WISCONSIN											
Corn for grain	3,050	2,950	2,850	Bu.	132.0	137.0	143.0	402,600	404,150	407,550	+1
Corn for silage	770	730	730	Ton	15.0	16.0	16.5	11,550	11,680	12,045	+3
Soybeans for beans	1,000	1,100	1,300	Bu.	44.0	47.0	46.0	44,000	51,700	59,800	+16
Hay (all)	2,370	2,400	2,600	Ton	2.68	2.65	2.89	6,353	6,370	7,510	+18
Alfalfa	1,900	1,900	2,100	Ton	2.75	2.80	3.10	5,225	5,320	6,510	+22
All other	470	500	500	Ton	2.40	2.10	2.00	1,128	1,050	1,000	-5
Oats	320	300	300	Bu.	63.0	61.0	62.0	20,160	18,300	18,600	+2
Winter wheat	145	135	120	Bu.	57.0	55.0	60.0	8,265	7,425	7,200	-3
Spring wheat 1/	7	7	7	Bu.	38.0	30.0	40.0	266	210	280	+33
Barley	65	65	65	Bu.	55.0	52.0	52.0	3,575	3,380	3,380	n.c.
Rye	12	12	12	Bu.	36.0	30.0	32.0	432	360	384	+7
Tobacco (all)	2.6	2.1	1.3	Lb.	2,231	2,063	2,114	5,690	4,230	2,790	-34
Type 54	1.8	1.5	0.9	Lb.	2,330	2,180	2,200	4,194	3,270	2,068	-37
Type 55	0.8	0.6	0.4	Lb.	1,995	1,745	1,900	1,496	960	722	-25
Potatoes (fall)	85.0	83.5	85.0	Cwt.	355	370	400	30,175	30,895	34,000	+10
Dry edible beans 2/	9.5	7.2	8.0	Cwt.	18.00	16.00	15.50	171	115	124	+8
Mint for oil (all)	12.4	13.3	12.6	Lb.	40	48	43	499	639	538	-16
Peppermint	7.6	8.0	7.7	Lb.	41	50	45	312	400	347	-13
Spearmint	4.8	5.3	4.9	Lb.	39	45	39	187	239	191	-20
Apples (commercial) 3/	6.5	6.4	6.5	Lb.	7,620	11,900	11,900	49,500	76,100	77,400	+2
Tart cherries 3/	2.4	2.4	2.3	Lb.	4,790	6,580	4,350	11,500	15,800	10,000	-37
Cranberries	13.7	14.5	14.6	Bbl.	167.9	174.1	228.8	2,300	2,525	3,340	+32
Strawberries	1.1	1.1	1.1	Cwt.	51	55	44	56	61	48	-21
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	87	70	75	+7
UNITED STATES											
Corn for grain	72,671	72,589	70,537	Bu.	126.7	134.4	133.8	9,206,832	9,758,685	9,437,337	-3
Corn for silage	6,054	5,913	6,062	Ton	16.1	16.1	15.9	97,192	95,479	96,169	+1
Soybeans for beans	69,110	70,441	72,476	Bu.	38.9	38.9	36.5	2,688,750	2,741,014	2,642,908	-4
Hay (all)	61,084	60,076	63,160	Ton	2.50	2.53	2.52	152,536	151,780	159,077	+5
Alfalfa	23,551	23,672	23,985	Ton	3.33	3.48	3.50	78,535	82,310	83,924	+2
All other	37,533	36,404	39,175	Ton	1.97	1.91	1.92	74,001	69,470	75,153	+8
Oats	2,813	2,755	2,453	Bu.	59.5	60.2	59.6	167,246	165,981	146,218	-12
Winter wheat	41,340	40,126	35,572	Bu.	44.6	46.9	47.8	1,845,528	1,880,733	1,699,989	-10
Spring wheat 1/	18,323	15,148	14,768	Bu.	29.9	34.9	34.1	548,155	528,469	503,132	-5
Barley	6,198	5,864	4,758	Bu.	58.1	60.0	59.2	359,878	352,125	281,853	-20
Rye	316	418	383	Bu.	25.7	29.1	28.7	8,132	12,161	10,993	-10
Tobacco (all)	836.2	717.6	644.3	Lb.	2,137	2,062	1,980	1,787,399	1,479,867	1,275,438	-14
Potatoes (fall)	1,185.1	1,214.0	1,166.1	Cwt.	357	356	369	423,190	432,737	429,847	-1
Dry edible beans 2/	1,758.8	1,917.7	1,877.0	Cwt.	16.70	15.86	17.70	29,370	30,418	33,230	+9
Mint for oil (all)	161.1	151.4	130.7	Lb.	77	84	76	12,412	12,714	9,991	-21
Apples (commercial) 3/	468.0	467.6	461.9	Lb.	22,100	24,900	23,300	10,323,800	11,648,400	10,741,300	-8
Tart cherries 3/	40.3	40.3	39.9	Lb.	7,260	8,630	6,400	292,900	348,100	255,300	-27
Cranberries	35.7	36.6	37.2	Bbl.	154.0	148.7	171.7	5,497	5,444	6,389	+17
Strawberries	44.3	45.2	45.6	Cwt.	368	365	400	16,278	16,397	18,126	+11
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	1,298	1,159	1,180	+2

1/Spring wheat other than durum. 2/Yields in pounds. Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/Bearing acreage. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.